

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2201

March 20, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing today to request you issue guidance to the entire federal government to expedite outstanding payment to contractors and subcontractors, particularly small businesses, with the goal of making payments within 15 days. Prompt and in-full payment from federal agencies will help alleviate some of the challenges small business contractors and subcontractors are experiencing.

Such guidance is not new, and was actually on track to be implemented in the next 18 months. The guidance we are requesting would mirror the "accelerated payments" policy authorized less than a decade ago by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). More importantly, you signed the same program into law on December 20, 2019, via the FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act. However, the rule-making process for the implementation of this law often takes at least 18 months. Given the strain on small businesses due to COVID-19, we urge you to issue immediate guidance reinstating the 15-day payment requirement for the duration of this national emergency.

Businesses that supply the federal government, including the U.S. military, front-load many of their costs as they wait for invoices to be approved and payments to be made. Such a declaration would have a positive impact on small businesses, improving cash flow to primes and suppliers, across the country. Moreover, the requested action would come at no additional cost to taxpayers, but instead simply accelerate payments to those who have effectively provided products and services and are in real need of cash-on-hand.

We respectfully urge you to take action and provide guidance on the matter through OMB as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Troy Balderson
Member of Congress

Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress

Jason Crow
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

Lucy McBath
Member of Congress

Adam Smith
Member of Congress

John B. Larson
Member of Congress

Anthony G. Brown
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Paul Mitchell
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Vicente Gonzalez
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Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress

Andy Levin
Member of Congress

Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress

Joe Cunningham
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Seth Moulton
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Vicky Hartzler
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Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
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Conor Lamb
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Derek Kilmer
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Mikie Sherrill
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Donald S. Beyer
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Elaine G. Luria
Member of Congress

Susan Wild
Member of Congress

Michael Waltz
Member of Congress

Cindy Axne
Member of Congress

Sean Casten
Member of Congress

Terri Sewell
Member of Congress

CC:

Office of Management and Budget, Acting Director Russell T.
Vought U.S. Department of Treasury, Secretary Steve Mnuchin
Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi
Majority Leader, Steny Hoyer
Minority Leader, Kevin McCarthy